

U.S. Marshals Service

Portland, Oregon - Deputy U.S. Marshal (DUSM) Vince Byford was awarded for his bravery during a 2010 standoff on the Warm Springs Reservation. He is the first Oregonian to be awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

On January 10, 2012, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Congressman Kurt Schrader presented the badge to DUSM Byford, who was part of the Oregon Fugitive Task Force attempting to capture a fugitive on the Warm Springs Reservation on July 22, 2010. The suspect had warrants in Madras, Oregon for 9 counts of attempted murder and started a firefight with authorities.

DUSM Byford was nearly shot twice by the fugitive, who was inside a home. DUSM Byford repositioned himself and called for other team members to move to better cover. While continuing to provide cover to team members, DUSM Byford was able to see the barrel of the fugitive's rifle and shot him in the torso. Shortly afterward, the fugitive surrendered.

"Deputy Byford distinguished himself for his bravery during this standoff with a fugitive," said U.S. Marshal Burger. "I have no doubt his courage under fire that day resulted in lives saved and I applaud our congressional delegation for recognizing him and awarding him with the congressional badge of bravery today."

"The Congressional Badge of Bravery was created in 2008 and is awarded to law enforcement officers who exhibit exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness, and unusual swiftness of action—regardless of their own personal safety—in an attempt to save or protect human life," said U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall. "Deputy Byford is the first Oregonian to receive this honor and no one is more deserving. He is a true hero."